

From: [Grantham, Nancy](#)
To: [Bowman, Liz](#); [Ryan Vise](#); [Coleman, Sam](#)
Cc: [Gray, David](#); [Forsgren, Lee](#); [Drinkard, Andrea](#); [Greenwalt, Sarah](#); [Wagner, Kenneth](#); [Jackson, Ryan](#)
Subject: RE: UPDATED for Review: First Draft of Water Release
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 9:31:11 AM

Number clarifications from the EOC water desk **below (in parentheses)**

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Ryan Vise ; Coleman, Sam
Cc: Gray, David ; Forsgren, Lee ; Drinkard, Andrea ; Grantham, Nancy ; Greenwalt, Sarah ; Wagner, Kenneth ; Jackson, Ryan
Subject: UPDATED for Review: First Draft of Water Release

Below, please find an updated version that only mentions Arkema as it relates to water testing. If you want, we can remove that whole section. I also updated the drinking water numbers with information from this morning's EOC report, and added in a section about fuel waivers. I removed the part about the Dams b/c I don't think that really answers any questions, and there seem to be other agencies providing more detailed information about that. Please let me know if you have additional edits or thoughts. Thank you – Liz

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

- **Drinking Water:** Half (2300) of the **4500** drinking water systems potentially affected by Harvey have been contacted. Of those: 1757 (**1514**) systems are fully operational, 137 (**166**) have boil-water notices, and 113 (**50**) are shut down. The agencies are contacting remaining systems to gather updated information of their status. Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status. Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.
- **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 (**1656**) of approximately 2467 (**2469**) wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have

reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas Military Department, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.

- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.
- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

- **Superfund Sites:** EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state and local authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.
- **Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and TCEQ are coordinating closely with Harris County Officials along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local public safety officials. As a result of initial chemical fires while the facility was flooded, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. EPA will maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground. The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.
- **Refineries/Fuel Waivers:** In addition to waivers for 38 states and D.C., EPA signed four

No Action Assurance (NAA) letters on September 1, to help address fuel shortages. NAA will help expedite the distribution of existing gasoline supplies to both Texas and Louisiana, while the refineries work to re-start and resume normal operations. Each is effective until September 15, 2017, and should allow for the distribution in Texas of 10 million or more gallons of gasoline to consumers.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

From: Ryan Vise [<mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>]

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:06 AM

To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

TCEQ would like to keep the Arkema info out of this press release and keep it a separate statement.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 8:51 AM, Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov> wrote:

No fire overnight trailers are smoldering but not burning. As of 30 min ago.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.

Deputy Regional Administrator

EPA Region 6

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214.665.3110 Direct

214.789.2016 Cell

From: Bowman, Liz

Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 8:49 AM

To: Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>

Cc: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

Thank you all, I am mocking this up to go out shortly with everyone's edits. I haven't heard anything additional about the Arkema fire, so I think we can still send this out this morning.

From: Ryan Vise [<mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>]

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 8:04 AM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Cc: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Looks good, One minor suggestion re: Arkema.
I don't know if we should mention the controlled burn since it hasn't been reschedule.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 7:00 AM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 3:06 AM, Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov> wrote:

A couple of situational **changes:**

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS
AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

- **Drinking Water:** Of the approximately **4512** drinking water systems in the affected area, 1757 systems are fully operational, 98 are partially operational, with a “boil water” notice, and 49 continue to have outages. The agencies are contacting 189 systems to gather updated information of their status. **Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.** Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the

next day.

- **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately **2467** wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the **Texas Military Department**, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. **Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.**
- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan **for sampling** residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to **establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.** **NOTE: We need to start this process asap**
- **Critical Water Infrastructure:** The agencies are continuing to work closely with the dams. **The larger dams are full in many cases, and may be releasing water, the structures are secure at this time.** **NOTE: USACE is responsible for the two large dams that are getting a lot of Media attention Addicks, and Barker**
- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling **will be** focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. **Floodwaters contain many** hazards, including bacteria and other **contaminants.** Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. **These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories.** In

addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

- **Superfund Sites:** EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by [State and local](#) authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, [state and local](#) authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.
- **Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and TCEQ are coordinating closely [with Harris County Officials along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local public safety officials](#). Due to the increased risk of unpredictable fires at the remaining trailers, experts on the ground decided that the best course of action was to ignite a controlled fire for the remaining trailers on Saturday evening, September 2nd. [However, at approximately this approach was suspended because the trailers began to smolder and are expected to spontaneously ignite.](#) As a result of initial

chemical fires while the facility was flooded, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. In addition, EPA will maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground. The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

Sorry this is so late. Had to sleep.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.

Deputy Regional Administrator

EPA Region 6

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From: Bowman, Liz

Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 8:48 PM

To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Ryan Vise

<Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Gray, David

<gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee

<Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea

<Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy

<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah

<greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth

<wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>

Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

Below, please find a first draft of a release on the status of water systems in the Harvey affected area. I

highlighted the areas where I need some help with numbers. Please review this and let me know if you have thoughts or edits. This is just a first draft and I am a little tired, so edits are welcome. **The goal is to get this out first thing tomorrow morning.** Thank you – Liz

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS

AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together,

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

- **Drinking Water:** Of the approximately XX drinking water systems in the affected area, 1757 systems are fully operational, 98 are partially operational, with a “boil water” notice, and 49 continue to have outages. The agencies are contacting 189 systems to gather updated information of their status. Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.
- **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately XXX wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston’s unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing.
- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling and monitoring residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to provide updates to the community on the status of water from residential well water.
- **Critical Water Infrastructure:** The agencies are continuing to work closely with the dams; some of the smaller dam systems have failed; while all the large water dams are full and may be

releasing water, the structures seem to be secure at this time.

- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling is focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters may contain many hazards, including bacteria and other disease agents. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding boil water notices, swimming advisories, or other safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

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- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by local authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.
- **Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and

TCEQ are coordinating closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, along with local public safety officials. Due to the increased risk of unpredictable fires at the remaining trailers, experts on the ground decided that the best course of action was to ignite a controlled fire for the remaining trailers on Saturday evening, September 2nd. As a result of initial chemical fires from the facility, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. EPA will continue to take additional samples of the flood water in the vicinity of the plant, to document changes in the concentration of chemicals. In addition, EPA will maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground. The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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